

**MENTAL RETARDATION—Proceedings of the First International Medical Conference at Portland, Maine—**Edited by Peter W. Bowman, M.D., Superintendent and Director of Research, and Hans V. Mautner, M.D., Clinical Director Emeritus, both of Pineland Hospital and Training Center, Pownal, Maine. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 381 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y., 1960. 530 pages, \$12.50.

The book is a report of the proceedings of the First International Medical Conference on Mental Retardation which was held in 1959 in Portland, Maine. Included are contributions of eminent scientists from many countries on a wide variety of subjects related to mental retardation. Clinical as well as experimental material is printed with a plea for medicine to assume its role of responsible and effective leadership in dealing with the problems of mental retardation.

There is an excellent review by Hsia of types of mental deficiency that are associated with enzyme disorders, a discussion of the various types and causes of cerebrosplinal birth injuries by Schwartz, and a report of metabolic studies on the perinatal human brain by Himwich, et al., which will interest the clinician. Knobloch and Pasamanick report their findings of a study of the relationship between complications of pregnancy and mental deficiency and there are interesting presentations on the role of infections in the mother during pregnancy, on metabolism, on the chemical basis and dietary treatment of phenylketonuria, on genetic factors, on mongolism, on kernicterus and on childhood schizophrenia.

This volume is one of the most comprehensive reviews of the multi-disciplinary approach to the problem of mental retardation and is highly recommended to physicians and other scientists who are involved in research or practice in this area.

NORMAN Q. BRILL, M.D.

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**PROGRESS IN PSYCHOTHERAPY—Volume IV, Social Psychotherapy—**Edited by Jules H. Masserman, M.D., Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry, Northwestern University, Chicago; and J. L. Moreno, M.D., New York University, New York City; Director, Institute of Psychodrama and Group Psychotherapy, Beacon, New York. Grune & Stratton, 1959. 361 pages, \$8.75.

This book is an Annual Review which consists of a series of articles on "Social Psychotherapy" by a variety of authors with widely varying backgrounds. J. L. Moreno, known for his work in Psychodrama, describes his observations of psychiatry in parts of Europe and the Near East and discusses cultural factors which have some relationship to mental health. In an article entitled "The Semantics of Psychotherapy," Dr. Henry A. Davidson discusses current confusion about the definition of mental illness and of psychotherapy. He deals with the problem of who should do psychotherapy but doesn't suggest a solution.

How a patient is induced in psychotherapy to voluntarily change his usual modes of behavior is described by Dr. J. Haley and the phenomenon of the transference cure explained by Drs. L. C. Kolb and J. Montgomery. In describing the difficulties that are inherent in teaching the principle of psychotherapy, Branch and Ely emphasize the importance of "The development in the trainee of sufficient personal security to facilitate a helpful relationship to the patient and sufficient sophistication to promote adequate communication." They suggest that "these goals can be achieved if the staff has broad clinical experience, can provide a broad spectrum of psychodynamic theory, and insists that the trainee is confronted by a range of patient material beginning with persons culturally similar to himself and extending from this beginning to as wide a cultural range as possible." R. Waggoner deals with the obligations the

psychiatrist has to the patient and the importance of flexibility of approach. J. Ruesch in a brief article entitled "Semantics, Transference, Teaching, and Integration" takes the interesting position that there are no startling differences between the various types of psychotherapy. He feels that the diagnosis or the method used bears less upon the outcome of treatment than the personal skill of the doctor. Different therapists feel comfortable with different methods and both may achieve the same results.

Interesting and thought provoking articles are included on the importance of economic and cultural factors in the psychiatric treatment process, as well as on rehabilitation, psychodrama, pastoral-psychiatric workshops, use of the creative dance, and the nature of psychotherapy in a host of countries throughout the world.

This volume will be of interest to physicians who utilize psychotherapy in their practices. The critical analyses of the many factors that are involved highlight the complexity of the technique and raise some important philosophical problems.

NORMAN Q. BRILL, M.D.

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**BELOVED PROFESSOR—Life and Times of William Dodge Frost—**Russell E. Frost. Vantage Press, Inc., 120 W. 31st Street, New York 1, N. Y., 1961. 350 pages, \$3.75.

This biography of William Dodge Frost, one of the pioneer bacteriologists in this country, was compiled by his son. Originally trained in botany, Dr. Frost entered the field of bacteriology and public health when the depression of the 1890's sealed him off from his chosen work. But he took to his new career with vigor and managed, during his long subsequent life, to contribute to many facets of teaching, bacteriologic research, and public health advances. In the last area he was one of the founders of the Wisconsin Anti-tuberculosis Association, and in the latter part of his life, founded the Morningside Sanatorium in Wisconsin.

Dr. Frost's life was an exemplary one, suited to the interests and needs of his times. This description of it possesses much more the ingredient of filial devotion than of literary merit, but it reads easily and presents a fair picture of aspects of the early days of bacteriology in this country.

SIDNEY RAFFEL, M.D.

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**HUMAN TOXOPLASMOSIS—Proceedings of the Conference on Clinical Aspects and Diagnostic Problems of Toxoplasmosis in Paediatrics at the VIII International Congress of Paediatrics, Copenhagen, 1956; Revised and edited 1959.** Edited by J. Chr. Siim, M.D., Director, The Toxoplasmosis Department, State Serum Institute, Copenhagen, Denmark. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore 2, Maryland, 1960. 220 pages, \$12.50.

In 1956 a special conference was devoted to the clinical and diagnostic aspects of toxoplasmosis in childhood. Representatives from 12 countries attended this conference, which was organized by Dr. Siim. The papers presented have been revised and brought up to date and appear in this volume. They are organized into sections on Congenital Toxoplasmosis, Acquired Toxoplasmosis, Treatment, Ophthalmological Aspects, Epidemiological Aspects and Laboratory Diagnosis. Of the 23 papers summarized all, but one, are in English—the one exception is in French.

This collection will be of interest to those making a special study of this disease. It is not broad enough in its coverage to meet the requirements of the one seeking a general discussion or review of Toxoplasmosis. It effectively points up how little is known of a definitive nature concerning this disease and how much remains to be learned about it.